(c) whether it is also a fact that despite these bans, export of rice from the country has been going on; and

(d) if so, the details of the quantity of rice exported during the year 2007-08 and in first 11 months of the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. *Vide* DGFT Notification No. 38 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 15th October, 2007, export of non-basmati rice was prohibited. However subsequently through another Notification No. 45 (RE-2007/2004-2009 dated 31st October, 2007, export was permitted subject to a minimum Export Price (MEP) of 425 USD/PMT FOB basis. The MEP was subsequently revised from time to time and through Notification No. 89 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 27th March, 2008, it was raised to USD 1,000/T FOB. Finally, Notification No. 93 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 1st April, 2008, banned export of non basmati rice. As far as Basmati rice export is concerned, export is permitted subject to an MEP of 1200 USD PMT FOB as stipulated under Notification No. 93 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 1st April, 2008.

(c) and (d) Sir, the initial ban lasted only 23 days between 9—31st October, 2007 and later export was permitted subject to different levels of minimum export prices. The details of rice exports during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

(Qty.: *Lakh MTs, Value: Rs. Crores*)

	2006-07		2007-08** (Provisional subject to change)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Basmati Rice	10.4	2778.31	6.93*	2454.40
Non-Basmati Rice	37.1	4257.88	26.17	5767.10 (@ Rs. 40-1 USD)

*Upto 12.01.2008

**Provisional subject to change.

Monitoring investments of overseas private equity funds

2495. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is working on ways to monitor investment of overseas private equity funds in India;

(b) whether this follows a suggestion from capital market regulator SEBI on the need to check unhealthy practices like asset stripping which erode value of companies;

(c) whether a beginning has to be made by tracking duration of investment and entry;

(d) whether large chunks of foreign investment come through M&A deals rather than Greenfield investment and this replaces investment rather than bring in fresh funds; and

(e) to what extent measures have been considered to check this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Extant policy of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is incorporated under Schedule I of the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulation, 2000, notified under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, as the FDI Scheme. Any investment by non-resident entities, including overseas private equity funds, is governed by the FDI Scheme. As per the FDI policy, acquisition of shares in an Indian company is allowed on the automatic route subject to the FDI caps and sectoral policy, and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulation, 1997. Investments made under the Portfolio Investment Scheme are governed by Schedule 2 of the FEMA Regulations. FDI under the automatic route is reported to RBI and under the Government approval route requires prior approval of Government. The entire FDI data is analysed by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on a monthly basis. DIPP is not considering any separate monitoring mechanism for overseas Private Equity funds.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) FDI by overseas Private Equity funds constituted long term capital.

(d) and (e) As per the FDI statistics maintained by the Government, out of the total FDI inflows of US$ 62.8 billion received since 1996, inflows through acquisition amounted to US$ 14.9 billion and inflows through routes other than acquisition amounted to US$ 47.9 billion.

Crisis in Indian seafood industry due to rupee appreciation

2496. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian seafood industry is facing its gravest crisis due to cascading impact of rupee strengthening, surging fuel prices and the US anti dumping duty imposed on Indian shrimp;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being mooted to bring relief to the seafood exporters and the millions of fishermen who earn their living from the said seafood exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the alternative sources of livelihood created to help the fishermen; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has already announced the following relief measures to protect the seafood industry:

(i) DEPB rates enhanced by 3% for the marine products w.e.f. 01.4.2007 has been extended beyond 31.3.2008 as a special package for immediate relief from rupee appreciation.

(ii) Shrimps and prawns (ITC HS codes "030613" and "160520") have been brought under the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) scheme. Under the